

**WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
January 27, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Commissioner Hamade on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Commissioner Hamade led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered by Veronica Johnson to Commissioner Hamade, Commissioner Nguyen, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Robbins, and Commissioner Cruz

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Hamade, Nguyen, Fisher, Robbins, Cruz

Commissioners Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Sergeant Mark Nye, Westminster Police Department; Veronica Johnson, Secretary

Mr. Ozaeta welcomed the new Commissioners and introduced the staff present and gave a brief overview of the Traffic Commission.

SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Fisher nominated Commissioner Hamade for the office of Chairman; seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Commissioner Robbins nominated Commissioner Nguyen for the office of Chairman; the motion died for a lack of a second.

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Hamade nominated Commissioner Fisher for the office of Vice Chairman; seconded by Commissioner Robbins.

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF

MINUTES

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of October 28, 2008 were approved.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

The only item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 87-100, Request for Parking Restrictions at 7571 Wyoming Street.

T.C. 87-100 7571 Wyoming Street

Mr. Ozaeta used an aerial map to illustrate the subject area. The only parking restrictions in the area are for fire hydrants. Staff received a written request from Ms. Sylvia Chung, Program Director of the Bell Christian Home. Mr. Ozaeta stated that the concern arose from the heavy pedestrian traffic in the area. Staff performed several site visits and did not observe significant travel of pedestrians.

Sgt. Nye explained that a pedestrian has to yield the right of way to a vehicle if the pedestrian has not yet entered the roadway. If the pedestrian is already in the roadway for a significant portion, the vehicle must yield to the pedestrian. The speed limit on Wyoming is 25 miles per hour.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the Commission should keep in mind the amount of apartments and senior housing in the area. With multi-unit dwellings, the need for additional parking increases. The on-street parking is heavily utilized. There are no parking restrictions on the street now; it is signed for street sweeping, and a vehicle is allowed to park for 72 hours or less. Mr. Ozaeta reminded the Commission that the City Council has become increasingly alarmed with the amount of red curb in the City. It should be taken into account the need for parking spaces on the street.

In response to the Commission's question, Mr. Ozaeta explained that the driveway would classify under the commercial width, at least 20' wide. Mr. Ozaeta explained that it was noticed that a tree at the driveway was overgrown and City crews trimmed the tree to enhance sight visibility.

The Commission verified that the tree had indeed been trimmed and Mr. Ozaeta clarified that the tree is the responsibility of the property owner adjacent to the parkway.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to deny the request for parking restrictions at 7571 Wyoming Street because all of the parking in the area is valuable.

Chairman Hamade opened this item up for discussion.

Andrew Millard, Assistant Administrator of Bell Christian Home, spoke in favor of the parking restrictions. Mr. Millard mentioned that they have about 80 residents at the facility, some with dementia, and have had some close calls. Mr. Millard showed the Commission some photos he had taken showing how the vehicles, especially SUVs and trucks, obstruct the view of the street. Mr. Millard questioned that there were no accidents reported in the area since 2005 because one of the employees had an accident at the driveway in 2008.

In response to the Commission's questions, Mr. Millard explained that both driveways are in and out driveways. The street is not always as crowded as it appears in the photos.

Frank Diaz, 7571 Wyoming; Louis Strothman, 7652 Wyoming; and Vincent Petronzio, 13940 Hoover #301E, spoke in opposition to the subject parking restrictions. Reasons included that there was an increase of truck traffic during recent construction, but that has subsided; the need for on-street parking; the accident in 2008 had nothing to do with the elderly residents regarding sight visibility; the driveways are used as one in and one out; the facility places trash cans in front of parking spaces located on-site to prevent people from parking; Chamber of Commerce meetings, along with other meetings, are often held in the area that are open to the public, visitors need to be able to park on the street to attend these events; and not much traffic has been seen going in or out of the subject location.

Mr. Ozaeta and Sgt. Nye clarified for the Commission that one component of traffic studies is the primary collision factor, which are reported accidents. If an accident occurred on private property, perhaps a driveway, it would not be reported. Minor fender benders may not be entered in the database for accurate data as drivers may pull over and handle their situations without ever notifying the police. All major accidents are reported and submitted properly. Non injury accidents are documented in the crossroads database and maintained in the State of California, and is gathered for reports such as these.

Commissioner Fisher observed the property on a weekday and a weekend at different times and did not find any heavy traffic or pedestrians out of the ordinary. She noticed that the people coming in and out of the apartment complex had

trouble finding parking. The tree was trimmed and the bushes should also be trimmed or removed as well as the tree on the left. There is not adequate parking at the senior citizen complex. She noticed that the center section between the two driveways would only allow three cars and could possibly be labeled for compact cars, therefore; when your exiting motorists will have a clearer view.

Mr. Ozaeta stated municipal code does not differentiate between compact and standard parking and would be very difficult to enforce.

Commissioner Cruz stated there was insufficient parking and with the arrival of the new apartment building more parking is needed.

Commissioner Hamade stated there were three oppositions against the applicant and did not see any danger. The City has cut the tree and the public is in need of parking.

MOTION

Chairman Hamade moved to approve staff's recommendation to deny the installation of parking restrictions at the subject location; seconded by Commissioner Robbins.

VOTE

The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ITEMS COMMISSIONERS/ STAFF MAY WISH TO

DISCUSS

Commissioner Cruz was concerned with the backing up of traffic at Jennrich Avenue and Newland Street. It was suggested to post a sign and to mark Keep Clear in the intersection. This approach would be beneficial to law enforcement to issue a citation if motorists fail to obey road marking and signals.

Commissioner Hamade mentioned an extremely difficult left turn while traveling south on Pacific at the intersection of Pacific and Westminster Blvd. One solution may be to make a U turn at Beach and Westminster Blvd., although it could be difficult due to the bus stop at the northwest corner and to the fact that CalTrans regulates Beach Blvd. The site will be looked at for further recommendations.

Mr. Ozaeta discussed that OCTA will receive money from the President's stimulus package in order to improve the city. Three items on the list included the storm drain systems, new signals (heads and poles), and repaving jobs.

Mr. Ozaeta referenced the West County Connectors Project vs. the I-405 project. The second phase will allow an additional lane in each direction for motorists on the 22 and 405 to remain in the carpool lane flyover to connect them directly to the 605. Most of the freeway segment work will take place in Seal Beach. As a result, the rerouting of traffic will impact the City of Westminster. The reconstruction of the bridges will be between the hours of about 9pm – 4am.

Mr. Ozaeta brought up the Bus Rapid Transit Line, also known as Bravos, which will come into effect the fall of this year. There will be three routes on the streets of Harbor, Katella and Westminster. The bus shelters will have advanced traveler information that will let the people waiting know how far the bus is from where they are. Travel saving time is approximately 8 minutes to Long Beach compared to other public transportation. One advantage for the City is that all traffic signal lights on Westminster Blvd. will be synchronized.

Commissioner Cruz pointed out that some businesses do not have handicap parking spaces. Mr. Ozaeta suggested speaking with the Planning Department as they approve parking and ADA accessibility. If businesses are not compliant, Code Enforcement could have them conform to that.

Commissioner Nguyen requested for the meetings to be changed to 6 p.m. as he works until 5:30 p.m. Further discussion will be made at the next meeting.

**STAFF MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

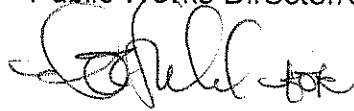
None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Johnson', is written over the printed name.

By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary